

June 6, 2011

North Dakota Broadband Providers:

We are contacting you to request data or information on your broadband service for the National and Montana Broadband Mapping Projects. Your participation in this effort is crucial to improving our understanding of the broadband coverage in North Dakota. We have entered into the maintenance phase of the project, which includes biannual updates to the National Broadband Map and the North Dakota Broadband map at the end of March and the end of September each year.

**The next deadline for providing updates is August 12, 2011, based on your broadband coverage as of June 30, 2011.**

Please contact us well before that deadline if you wish to participate, so we have adequate time to send you details on how to review your data and work with you on any modifications. Any updates received after August 12, 2011 will be handled as part of the March 2012 update to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The NTIA requires that all wired (DSL, Cable Modem, and Fiber to the End User) broadband service be reported at the census block level (the smallest geographic unit used by the United States Census Bureau) and wireless broadband service reported as a map area or coverage. The North Dakota Information Technology Department is following a similar protocol for the North Dakota online interactive broadband map, and users can view wired broadband coverage, wireless broadband coverage, and areas where both are available. They can also view each provider's individual broadband coverage by technology of transmission.

We have received feedback from some providers that large census blocks (greater than 2 square miles) do not accurately represent their wired broadband coverage. In response to these concerns we are developing a method to support a finer mapping resolution for the North Dakota online map, accurately representing your coverage in these large census blocks.

You can review your existing broadband coverage based on the most recent update in either of two methods:

1. North Dakota online interactive broadband map  
<http://broadband.nd.gov/>
2. Contact us and we will send you a detailed map in Adobe PDF format for each of your technologies.

Please note that the NTIA defines availability as follows: “ ‘broadband service’ is ‘available’ at a location if the provider does, or could, within a typical service interval (7 to 10 business days) without an extraordinary commitment of resources, provision two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream and greater than 200 kbps upstream to end-users at that location.”

There are several ways we can work with you to update your broadband coverage if you wish to participate. These range from marking up a digital or paper version of the map to providing you with GIS or CAD files. Contact us for details or to ask any questions of our technicians. Please do not send data or updates without coordinating with us first, so we can update you on the protocols. All data should be accurate as of June 30, 2011.

Accurately mapping your coverage is the most important priority. NTIA also requests middle mile information and subscriber weighted nominal speed from providers who are willing to provide that additional information. Neither of those are included in the North Dakota online interactive broadband map.

North Dakota is developing an online web application that will allow providers to easily update their coverage information. If you would like to participate in the beta test of the application and provide feedback on its development please contact us.

Please contact our GIS team if you have any questions or need any additional information. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Fred Gifford  
Project Manager  
Tetra Tech Inc.

Broadband Mapping GIS contacts and further questions:

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